



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet
Division for Air Quality

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GUIDELINES FOR PROPER DISPOSAL OF STORM DEBRIS
Recycling Recommended

(Frankfort, July 15, 2004) - The Department for Environmental Protection (DEP) is issuing this press release to assist citizens with information about the proper disposal of woody/vegetative debris resulting from the recent severe storms. Citizens should contact their local solid waste department to learn where debris may be taken or if it will be picked up curbside.

Local governments are strongly encouraged to recycle the debris by either shredding or chipping the material. Shredding may allow the material to be reused as mulch at a later time by local residences and businesses. If local governments do not have the capability or equipment to shred the material, then they are encouraged to contact other cities or counties to see if they have shredding operations and would accept debris from other localities. Local governments may also want to consider contacting commercial shredding operations that may be interested in establishing a temporary operation in their areas.

If recycling is not feasible, local county or municipal governments should identify a staging area or areas where storm debris can be temporarily stored and/or burned. At a minimum, the staging areas must be located away from nearby residences or businesses; be located out of the floodplain and away from sinkholes; or in proximity to major drainage channels; and meet other environmental criteria.

Once the staging areas are identified, local governments need to provide these locations to DEP's closest regional office. DEP staff will complete an on-site inspection of the proposed storage/burn location to ensure that it meets specific environmental criteria developed to minimize the impact of the burning activity on surrounding residences, etc.

If DEP approves the site, burning of the material can be completed in a controlled manner. Local fire departments should oversee the burning operation and to ensure that adequate firebreaks are established and maintained around all debris piles.

To minimize environmental impact, the debris should not be burned until, at least, the exterior surfaces have dried out. Small amounts of clean diesel fuel or kerosene, not to exceed five gallons, may be used to aid ignition.

Residents that need to dispose of storm debris on their property are directed to contact their local Emergency Operations Center for instructions. For more information about all criteria for proper disposal

Ernie Fletcher
Governor



LaJuana S. Wilcher
Secretary

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and outdoor burning, visit the Division of Waste Management web site at www.waste.ky.gov and the Division for Air Quality and at www.air.ky.gov/news.

These guidelines **only** apply to the disposal of woody debris resulting from the recent severe storms. Burning tires, shingles, plastics, or other debris is not permitted. These items must be disposed of according to local or state ordinances and regulations.

DEP will only allow the burning of storm debris on a **temporary basis** to allow municipalities and local governments to dispose of the excessive volume of vegetative debris generated by the storms.

Visit the DEP web site at www.dep.ky.gov for a list of DEP regional offices. You may also call DEP toll free at 1-888-663-8677, the Division for Air Quality at 502-573-3382 and the Division of Waste Management at 1-800-No-Dumps (663-3877).